The Physician Led Regional Quality Improvement Initiative
Sponsored by the SSC

The Specialist Services Committee (SSC) has developed the Regional Quality Improvement Initiative. The initiative provides $1.3m annually to each Health Authority, to address gaps in quality structures relating to physician participation in QI activities and to ensure those physicians have adequate technical supports.

Physicians are able to meet, coordinate and act on quality improvement opportunities to enhance patient care and access SSC funded QI resources and expertise. The focus is on increasing the involvement of physicians in quality improvement initiatives within the Health Authority. This will be aligned with the Health Authority’s overall quality strategy, but distinct from quality assurance responsibility and mandate. This initiative may include funding physician champions to participate in regional quality improvement committees or networks, and to support their time to lead specific quality improvement projects and initiatives identified by Specialists or Health Authorities.

The SSC has deliberately not defined what this opportunity should look like for the Health Authorities; rather, it is working with each Health Authority and the physician community to tailor Regional QI to its unique needs using a grassroots, collaborative approach.

Presently

A working group, with representatives from the SSC, the MOH, the physician community, VCH/PHC and patient representatives, is currently developing a proposal to enhance physician participation in quality improvement.

Quality Improvement in Action – Fraser Health

Dr. Shiau, a pathologist from Royal Columbian Hospital was tired of hearing “because that’s the way it is always done” when looking to make improvements.

In April 2015, she joined the Fraser Health Physician Quality and Regional Safety Team (PQRST). With paid time for training, she learned how to create measures to monitor change through continuous cycles of quality improvement. She set out to improve the quality of histology slides in the lab and improve the percentage of routine cases completed based on regional benchmark turn-around time.

For further information on this, or other SSC initiatives across VCH/PHC, please contact David Jermey david.jermey@vch.ca

The SSC’s strategic plan focuses on three main areas:

Engaging Physicians:
Support structures and venues for physicians to discuss, prioritize and act on system improvement opportunities.

Enabling Health System Improvement:
Fund and support physicians in quality improvement initiatives, and promote spread.

Supporting Physicians to Deliver Quality Care:
Build physician capacity in leadership and quality improvement skills; incent physicians to improve access and coordination of care; and provide staff resources to support physicians and initiatives.